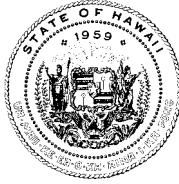


BENJAMIN J. CAYETANO
GOVERNOR

MAZIE K. HIRONO
LT. GOVERNOR



KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
DIRECTOR

JAN K. YAMANE
ACTING LICENSING
ADMINISTRATOR

STATE OF HAWAII
PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL LICENSING DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
P.O. BOX 3469
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801
www.state.hi.us/dcca

BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN OPTOMETRY RESOLUTION

SUPPORT THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION'S GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR THE ELIMINATION OF
AVOIDABLE BLINDNESS – "VISION 2020 – THE RIGHT TO SIGHT"

- WHEREAS, There is an estimated 180 million people worldwide who are visually disabled. Of these, between 40 and 45 million persons are blind and by definition, cannot walk about unaided.
- WHEREAS, Approximately 50% of the world's blind suffer from cataract, the majority of persons are blind from other conditions such as glaucoma, trachoma, onchocerciasis (also known as river blindness) and different conditions of childhood blindness.
- WHEREAS, If additional resources are not urgently mobilized and efforts not made to curb this trend, by 2020, it is estimated that the global burden of blindness can double.
- WHEREAS, The World Health Organization ("WHO") has launched a common agenda for global action: "VISION 2020 – The Right to Sight".
- WHEREAS, VISION 2020 is based on the concept of a broad coalition of all international, nongovernmental and private organizations to collaborate with WHO in the prevention of blindness and eye care delivery.
- WHEREAS, Today, the international community spends about \$80 million each year on the prevention of blindness. This amount has to be at least doubled if the targets set by VISION 2020 are to be achieved.
- WHEREAS, VISION 2020 will allow the international community to fight avoidable blindness through: disease prevention and control; training of personnel; strengthening the existing eye care infrastructure; use of appropriate and affordable technology; and mobilization of resources.
- WHEREAS, The first step towards VISION 2020 is a global campaign to raise awareness among peoples and governments about societal implications of blindness, as well as to mobilize a strong, long-term political and professional commitment to eliminate avoidable blindness.
- WHEREAS, The Board of Examiners in Optometry, Professional & Vocational Licensing Division, Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, State of Hawaii, regulating approximately 346 licensed optometrists in the State of Hawaii whose practice includes the examination, diagnosis, treatment, and management of diseases and disorders of the human visual system, eye, and the eyelids, now, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, that the Board of Examiners in Optometry support the VISION 2020 initiative and encourages other charitable and humanitarian organizations within and without the profession of optometry, in Hawaii, to join in support of this program.